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O'HARA

Famed Author of "Bivouac of the Dead" Was a Native of Kentucky.

His Father Became an Irish Exile Rather Than Abandon Religion.

Admitted to the Senior Class at St. Joseph's College at Bardonia.

WAS HANDSOME AND NEAT.

The Brooklyn Eagle recently reprinted Theodore O'Hara's famous poem, "Bivouac of the Dead," but appears at a loss as to the life and history of the great Irish-American author and soldier. This makes timely the following authentic and truthful sketch, which doubtless many will be pleased to read:

Theodore O'Hara was born in Danville, Ky., February 11, 1820. He was the son of Kave O'Hara, an Irish political exile, noted for his piety and learning, who had been invited to Danville to take charge of an academy about to be established there under the auspices of Gov. Shelby. His ancestors becoming subject to the disabilities imposed upon Catholics in their unhappy land, abandoned home rather than religion, emigrated to this country with Lord Baltimore and aided in founding that colony which was so long an asylum for victims of religious intolerance. The family removed from Danville to Woodford county, where the father commenced the education of his son, and resided until they settled in Frankfort.

Theodore O'Hara was remarkable when but a child. Study was his passion. It engrossed his entire boyhood and added fuel to the fires of his genius. Happily he was trained and appreciated by one who fully understood the nature he was moulding. His education was conducted wholly by his father until he was prepared to enter college, and then that ripe scholar had so thoroughly done his work that he was at once admitted to the senior class of St. Joseph's Academy at Bardonia. There among the learned clergy of his church he soon became prominent as a profound and accomplished scholar, especially in the ancient classics, and though but a youth, the rare compliment was paid him of election to the professorship of the Greek language.

After leaving college O'Hara studied law in the office of Judge Oweley, where he was a fellow student of John C. Breckinridge. The strong attachment there formed lasted through life. In 1845 he held a position in the Treasury Department at Washington under Gen. John M. McCalla. He was appointed Captain in the old United States army, served with distinction through the Mexican war, and was breveted Major for gallant and meritorious conduct. He left the army after the war and began the practice of law in Washington City, where he remained until the breaking out of the Cuban fever, when with many Kentuckians he embarked in that ill-fated enterprise. He commanded one of the regiments in the disastrous battle of Cardenas and was badly wounded. Upon his return from Mexico he conducted the Mobile Register during the years that John Forsythe, its editor, was Minister to Mexico. He subsequently returned to Kentucky and became for a time the editor of the Louisville Times (an ephemeral publication and not the Times of today), and afterward of the Frankfort Yeoman.

At the beginning of the civil war he entered the Southern army and became the Colonel of the Twelfth Alabama Regiment. Later he served on the staff of Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston, was with him at the battle of Shiloh, and as George W. Ranck says, "received his great chief in his arms when he fell upon that ensanguined field." He became Chief of Staff to Gen. John C. Breckinridge and was with him during the remainder of the civil war.

After the civil war he settled in Columbus, Ga., and engaged in the cotton business, which did not prove profitable. He then settled upon a plantation on the Alabama side of the Chattahoochee river, near a place called Guerritown. There he was laboring successfully when attacked with bilious fever, dying Friday, June 6, 1867. He was first buried at Columbus, Ga., but in the summer of 1874, in accordance with the resolution of the Kentucky Legislature, his remains were brought to Frankfort, where they were reinterred on September 15. O'Hara was never married. Mr. Ranck says: "In personal appearance he was strikingly handsome. He was not quite six feet in height, very graceful and erect in his carriage and scrupulously neat in his dress. His face beamed with generous feeling. His dark hazel eyes kindled with soul and expression and were filled with a light like that which comes down to us from the stars."

In his address on the occasion of the reinterment of O'Hara at Frankfort, Gen. William Preston said: "Having known Col. O'Hara intimately, both in his campaigns in Mexico and in the South, having enjoyed the pleasure that his cultivated mind and genial temper gave to the camp fire or the march; having witnessed his brilliant courage and quick discernment in battle; having seen him in the defiles of Mexico, by the side of Sidney Johnston in his dying moments at Shiloh, and with Breckinridge in

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his charge at Stone river, I here, in this solemn moment, can sincerely say I believe that no braver heart will rest beneath this consecrated sod, and no spirit more knightly or humane ever lingered under the shadow of yonder monument."

OLD AIR.

The strains of the Tantum ergo
Fall softly on mine ear,
From a sweet-toned organ pealing
While the faithful kneel in prayer;
And the sacred music stealing
Brings back the long ago,
And a child again I'm kneeling
In a chapel quaint and low.

The same sweet strains are swelling,
The incense sweet ascends,
And each fervent creature kneeling
In silent homage bends;
And I breathe a prayer for one and all,
As I did in days gone by,
In that dear old country chapel,
Beneath an Irish sky.

Though mighty oceans roll between
That holy place and me,
And the friends who kneel beside me then
I never more may see;
And though many a weary year's gone by
Since I've heard that sweet air played
In that chapel 'neath an Irish sky,
Near the spreading beeches' shade.

Nor time nor distance can efface
The memories that twine
Around each dear, familiar place.
In that native land of mine:
For that old air brings my spirit
Nigh
To the dear spot where I've prayed
In that chapel 'neath an Irish sky,
Near the spreading beeches' shade.

—St. Veronica Moore.

PATRONS OF COUNTRIES.

Austria—Our Lady.
Belgium—St. Joseph.
Brazil—The Holy Cross.
Borneo—St. Francis Xavier.
Chile—St. James.
The Congo—Our Lady.
England—St. George.
East Indies—St. Thomas, Apostles.
Ecuador—The Sacred Heart.
Finland—St. Henry of Upsal.
France—St. Denis.
Germany—St. Michael; St. Boniface.
Holland—St. Willibrord.
Hungary—St. Stephen.
Ireland—St. Patrick.
Italy—Various.
Mexico—Our Lady of Guadalupe.
Norway—St. Olaf.
Portugal—St. George.
Scotland—St. Andrew.
Sweden—St. Bridget.
Spain—St. James.
South America—St. Rose of Lima.
United States—The Immaculate Conception.
Wales—St. David.

RECORD THROW.

A good story is told of the late William M. Everts, Attorney General, Secretary of State and United States Senator for New York. While Secretary of State he took the English Minister cut for a drive on the banks of the Potomac. They stopped at Long Bridge. The Minister said banteringly: "It is said, Mr. Secretary, that Gen. Washington threw a dollar across this river. Rather a long throw, don't you think so?"

"Well," said Mr. Everts, "not for him. He threw a sovereign across the ocean once, you know."

RAISIN BREAD.

One big cup brown sugar, one cup sour milk (dissolve one teaspoon soda in part of milk), add pinch of salt, two cups graham flour, big cup of chopped raisins. Put in small deep cake pan and bake fifty minutes in very slow oven.

"CHRISTMAS" NOT "CHRISTIDE."

It was in the days of Daniel O'Connell, not over sixty years ago, writes a Seraphic Child of Mary, in the current issue of The Lamp, that a certain English member of Parliament presented a bill providing for a change in the word "Christmas."

In England for centuries the word mass was held in abomination by conscientious Protestant bigots. This man wanted the word altered to "Christide," so that the objectionable portion, "mass," should no longer offend British ears. The name of the zealous member, who had never before introduced a bill, was Thomas Massey-Massey.

When the bill came up for consideration Mr. O'Connell submitted an amendment to the effect that since the word Christmas was to be changed to Christide, it would only be right, just and proper to make a similar and corresponding change in the name of the bill. "This," said Mr. O'Connell, "will enable us in the future to call our friend Thotide Tidesy-Tidey."

The uproar of laughter and applause which followed the Irish member's suggestion overwhelmed Mr. Massey-Massey with confusion and killed his bill so dead that it was never after seriously referred to.

THESE PROVERBS IRISH.

He who gets a name for early rising may sleep all day.
Where there's a woman there's talk, and where there's geese there's cackling.
A woman has an excuse readier than an apron.
A man ties a knot with his tongue that his teeth will not loosen.
Have your own will, like the women have.
Three without a rule—a wife, a pig and a mule.
The husband of the sloven is known among the crowd.
Don't praise your son-in-law till the year's out.
Better the end of a feast than the beginning of a fight.
Never take a wife who has no faults.
However near a man's shirt is, his skin is nearer.
A pig in the sty doesn't know the pig going along the road.
Melodious is the closed mouth.

WORLD'S GREATEST BRIDGE.

The completion of the Hell Gate bridge at New York will be the greatest triumph in bridge building in the world. The Hell Gate bridge is three and a half miles long and has the greatest steel arch ever constructed. It has a span of more than a thousand feet; wide enough to carry four railroad tracks. No long bridge in the world now carries four tracks. Hell Gate bridge will form the connecting link between the railroads of New England and the rest of the country.

GOOD YEAR.

According to the reports of Supreme President Gaudin the Catholic Knights of America have had a remarkably successful year. Despite the hard times that prevailed eighteen new branches were instituted and 1,397 members brought into the order. The net gain was 322, due to the large number of deaths and lapses. The Catholic Knights have paid to beneficiaries nearly \$20,000,000.

FOLLOWS ADVICE.

When Gen. Beck was a young lawyer a man was arraigned for murder and had no counsel.
"Mr. Beck," said the presiding Judge, "take the prisoner into that room at the rear of the court, hear his story and give him the best advice you can."
Accordingly Beck disappeared with the prisoner, and in half an hour's time returned into the court—alone.
"Where is the prisoner?" asked the Judge.
"Well," replied Beck, slowly, "I heard his story, and then I gave him the best advice I could. I said: 'Prisoner, if I were you I'd get out of that window and make tracks.' He slid down the water-pipe, and the last I saw of him he was getting over a stone wall half mile away."

DEFICIT OF MILLIONS.

Twelve millions of francs is the deficit incurred by the Roman Exposition of 1911. Nathan's insults to Pius X., the outbreak of cholera in Italy that year, and its object, to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Rome as capital of United Italy, killed the great enterprise.

THEN IT GOT COOL.

At a dinner in Dublin there were two sisters present. One had just emerged from her widow's weeds, and the other was not long married, but her husband was in India. A young barrister who was present was chosen to toast the young widow to dinner. Unfortunately he was under the impression that his partner was the lady whose husband was in India. The conversation commenced by the lady observing how hot it was. "Yes, it is very hot," replied the barrister, "but not so hot as where your husband is."

FELT SHE HAD KICK.

"Are you the editor of the paper?" asked the lady with the drab spats, calling.
"I am," replied the man with the poised pencil.
"Well, I called to ask you if you wouldn't get larger type. My name was in your paper five times last week and a neighbor of mine told me she never saw it."

AWFUL WOMAN.

"Madam, the feather in your hat is getting in my eye," exclaimed a man in a crowd. The woman turned around, looked him over and then inquired: "Why don't you wear glasses?"

FATHER CORMIER RETIRES.

Rev. Father Cormier, the aged General of the Order of Preachers, it is stated is retiring from office, and will reside in St. Clemente of the Irish Dominicans.

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